

## In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-17 (cancelled).

18 (currently amended). A method for maintaining or lowering endogenous cortisol levels in a patient following a stressful event, ~~comprising wherein said method comprises~~ administering to the patient, prior to the stressful event, an effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, ~~to maintain or decrease cortisol levels in the patient following the stressful event wherein the patient is then subsequently subjected to the stressful event which, in the absence of said administration of cysteamine, or salt thereof, would increase cortisol levels in the patient, and wherein, subsequent to the stressful event, the cortisol levels in the patient are lower than they would have been in the absence of the administration of cysteamine, or salt thereof.~~

19 (cancelled).

20 (currently amended). The method of claim ~~[[19]]~~18, wherein said cysteamine salt is cysteamine hydrochloride.

21 (previously presented). The method of claim 20, wherein said cysteamine, or cysteamine salt, is taken orally, parenterally, intravenously, intramuscularly, transdermally, via buccal route, subcutaneously, or via suppository.

22 (previously presented). The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of concurrently administering a therapeutic agent with cysteamine, or salt thereof, wherein the therapeutic agent is a therapy used to treat stress.

23 (original). The method of claim 22, wherein the therapy is selected from the group consisting of counseling; psychotherapy; exercise; meditation; and massage therapy.

24 (previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, administered to the patient is between about 0.1 to 3,000 mg/kg of body weight or an equivalent molar quantity.

25 (previously presented). The method of claim 24, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, administered to the patient is between about 1 mg/kg of body weight to 30 mg/kg of body weight of cysteamine, or salt thereof, or an equivalent molar quantity.

26 (previously presented). The method of claim 24, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, administered to the patient is between about 4 mg/kg of body weight to 18 mg/kg of body weight of cysteamine hydrochloride, or an equivalent molar quantity thereof.

27 (new). The method, according to claim 18, wherein the stressful event is selected from work stress, school stress, sports stress, divorce, bereavement, unemployment, moving from a house, and alcohol use.